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"*Amicus meus* is mentioned as illustrating the use of *meus* for the subjective genitive *mei*" (II, p. 71); "Other verbs of this class (*docere, celare*) usually take the ablative with *ab, ex*, or *de* instead of the second accusative."

Mistakes in the markings of vowels also occur, though on this point one may well extend one's sympathy. The following were noticed: *pōstulo, pōreo* (once *pāreo*), *cōgitare, cōspicere, āgmen, ḍi (ōdisse), pōsco* (and *pōsco*). A more serious fault is the infrequent occurrence of some of the constructions beyond the first few exercises after their introduction.

The chief difficulty in using the books will be the rigidity of the arrangement, especially in Part I. If one should not wish to read the first four books of Caesar, but some others, or if one should prefer to read some parts of them without doing the composition work, he would fall short just so much of securing a complete treatment of the grammatical points, which are indissolubly locked to the various chapters of the Latin text. Neither does it strike the reviewer as the best possible method to hammer away for a whole year, without intermission or variation, at the rate of three oral exercises to one written one. Constancy is a jewel, but it is none the less true that the best way to get things done is to have a rest or a change occasionally.

On the whole, however, the books can be commended as a careful, pains-taking piece of work by one who knows the language and its special difficulties, and who knows by experience how to meet them.

J. J. S.

The Private Life of the Romans. By HAROLD WHETSTONE JOHNSON. Chicago: Scott, Foresman & Co., 1903. Pp. 344. \$1.50.

This work is designed by its author to meet the needs of three classes of readers: (1) to aid the high-school senior and college freshman in understanding the references to Roman life which they are constantly meeting in the Latin texts; (2) to serve the advanced college student as a basis for note-taking in lecture courses on the subject; and (3) to give readers and students of Roman history a greater sense of the reality of the men whose careers they are following. For all three classes of readers, and in fact for all students of the subject not thoroughly familiar with French or German, there was sore need of a good book on Roman life to keep pace with the growing importance of the subject. It is apparent at the first glance that Professor Johnston's book is the most adequate and most serviceable of the systematic treatises on Roman life in the English language, and that, in spite of some manifest defects, it deservedly supersedes all previous works of the sort in use in schools or colleges. Its range of subjects is similar to that of Marquardt's *Das Privatleben der Römer*, though there are some additions as well as some omissions, together with a considerable shift of emphasis upon certain points. Its compass is, of course, much briefer. The copious use of illustrations, plans, and diagrams contributes greatly to its

value as a handbook, while its extensive table of contents, lists of secondary sources, and complete indices render it especially useful as a book of reference.

The book, by reason of its many merits, will probably pass through several editions, possibly undergoing enlargement in order to meet the needs of advanced students. It will therefore be well to meet the frank request of the author for suggestions in the spirit in which it is made, and point out some of the ways in which the work may be improved. The author's decision to omit all references to the original sources, though he gives a full list of secondary sources, does not seem to have been well taken. The value of his book would be increased for teachers and for the second class of his readers by the addition of references to the more important passages in the Latin authors. The illustrations have been already referred to as helpful. Exception must be taken, however, to those which occur in the first three chapters, where the subject does not admit of much illustration. The insertion of the heads of distinguished Romans, chiefly emperors, serves no apparent purpose, and tends to make a mere picture-book of this part of an otherwise serious work. The book has already many cross-references. These might, however, be extended with profit, as, for instance, from § 218, where the subject of house-heating is discussed in a meager way, to § 268, where the use of the furnace is treated in more detail. Furthermore, in a work on private life there is some lack of proportion, to say the least, in devoting nearly forty pages to the public shows of the circus and amphitheater, while the trades and professions, other than those of the charioteer or gladiator, are dismissed in a single page. In the same way twelve pages are devoted to the Roman's daily bath, while his religion and the domestic worship, which, as late as the days of Tibullus, formed an essential part of the daily life of the average Roman, is omitted altogether. It would be quite as fair to neglect the religious side in describing the life in New England in the seventeenth century.

The subject is a large one, and the systematic treatise is in some respects limited by its very system. It would therefore be unfair to criticize Professor Johnston's book for limitations which are, after all, shared by the work of Marquardt, the most authoritative treatise of the same kind. But it is well to remind his third class of readers that, in spite of the comprehensive title, the book does not present the whole of Roman life by any means, but merely the outward setting. It does not really interpret Roman life. Take, for instance, the chapter on the family. The bare facts, drawn chiefly from Roman law, seem repellent and uninteresting. A similar picture of the English family drawn from English law would be lifeless at best. The beautiful but elusive Roman *pietas*, which was fundamental in Roman character, must be understood in order to make the bald information concerning the Roman family intelligible and human.

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